**To:** 'Bodine, Susan (EPW)'[Susan_Bodine@epw.senate.gov]
**From:** Levine, Carolyn
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 5:23:34 PM
**Subject:** RE: Upper Animus Mining District pollution report

Hi Susan,

Thanks for passing along. I will check.

*Carolyn Levine*

*Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations*

*U.S. EPA*

*(202) 564-1859*

*levine.carolyn@epa.gov*

**From:** Bodine, Susan (EPW) [mailto:Susan_Bodine@epw.senate.gov]
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:19 PM
**To:** Levine, Carolyn
**Subject:** RE: Upper Animus Mining District pollution report

Apropos of my question below, see the attached article:

"And they admit that before tinkering with the mine, they should have taken better steps to mitigate a possible disaster, such as drilling into the mine from the top to assess the situation without the danger of busting the dam."

Was a bore hole drilled at Gold King like the one described below at Red and Bonita? Or did EPA just proceed to remove the blockage at the portal?

**From:** Bodine, Susan (EPW)
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:55 PM
**To:** 'Levine, Carolyn'
**Subject:** RE: Upper Animus Mining District pollution report

Carolyn,

According to a March 2013 Pollution Report for the Red and Bonita mine, EPA did work to investigate and control the hydrologic pressure at Red and Bonita before beginning work:

"In 2010 EPA also initiated an investigation to determine the extent of blockage in the Red and Bonita adit. As part of that effort, a bore hole was drilled approximately 30 feet beyond the face of the hillside slope and adit opening, and it was determined to drill into the void of the adit/tunnel. At that location a monitoring well, used to monitor the impounded water within the adit, was installed , to determine if the adit blockage was under hydraulic pressure from a possible mine pool. This was necessary to determine before the removal of the collapsed portal in 2011. It was necessary to remove the blockage to allow future entry to assess the hydrogeologic and geotechnical conditions in the adit. In addition, a future blowout of the blockage was a potential risk if the debris had not been removed. During removal of the collapsed rock debris at the portal a large volume of water was pumped (multiple times) from the adit in order to control both the pressure against the soil/rock mass and to prevent the turbid water from releasing. All disturbed water pumped during portal excavation and later during mine entry activities received a flocculent and/or was filtered prior to release into Cement Creek. A new mine portal was installed in October 2011."

What similar actions were taken or planned at Gold King? There was a concern about hydraulic pressure at Red and Bonita.

Susan

**From:** Levine, Carolyn [mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:48 PM
**Subject:** Upper Animus Mining District fact sheet + Action Memo

Hi all,

Below are links to the May 2015, fact sheet and the Action Memo for the Red and Bonita Mine site which is adjacent to the Gold King Mine. The Action Memo provides details about conditions at the Red and Bonita Mine, Gold King Mine, and other adjacent mines as of September 2014. Additional information following up on our call will be forthcoming. Please let me know if you have any questions.

http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/upper-animas-red-and-bonita-bulkhead-fact-sheet-5-22-2015.pdf

http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/upper-animas-action-memo-9-24-2014.pdf

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